

REMARKS

The drawings have been objected to for the reasons set forth in paragraph 1 of the Examiner's Office Action letter. The position of the Examiner is respectfully traversed.

Because of the general nature of the clutches recited in claims 7, 8 and 10 and the control means recited in claims 7 and 8, it is not believed that such general items need to be presented in the form of drawings in order to enable one skilled in the art to understand how the clutches and control means cooperate in connection with the present invention. However, if the Examiner persist in his objection to these recitations, the Applicants will take appropriate action at that time.

Claims 1-10 have been objected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Concerning the Examiner's comments with respect to claim 1 as noted on page 3 of the Examiner's Office Action letter, it should be noted that claim 1 has been cancelled from the present application and replaced with newly added claim 11. It is believed that newly added claim 11 completely eliminates all of the objections raised by the Examiner with respect to original claim 1.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claim 4, it is believed that this rejection is incorrect inasmuch as the expression in claim 1 is broader than the expression in claim 4, that is, claim 1 encompasses claim 4, and accordingly, the limitations in the respective claims are not in conflict with one another.

Regarding the Examiner's rejection of claim 6 as noted at the bottom of page 3 of the Examiner's Office Action letter, it should be noted that claim 6 has been replaced with newly added claim 12 which eliminates the problems raised by Examiner with respect to claim 6.

At the top of page 4 the Examiner has rejected claims 9 and 10 for the reasons stated in the Office Action letter. Since claims 9 and 10 have been cancelled from the present application, this means that these rejections have been eliminated.

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Zanders, U.S. Patent No. 3,721,435. Claims 1-2 and 5-6 have been rejected

by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamada et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,231,045. Finally, claims 8 and 10 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanders as applied to claims 1 and 9 and further in view of Gray, U.S. Patent No. 5,046,641. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a flexible sheet deposition system for depositing sheets on a selected one of multiple supports facing a selected one of multiple sheet deposition locations. Drive means and control means are provided so that each support can be moved up and down so as to face each sheet deposition location where the distance between adjacent supports can be adjusted. Advantageously, the flexible sheet deposition system of the present invention is provided with a plurality of supports which are detachable with respect to the position of the support along the guide member on which it is suspended.

As the Examiner will note, original claims 1 and 6 have been replaced with newly added claims 11 and 12 so as to clearly recite that the supports are detachable in respective of the position of the support along guide member on which it is suspended. Neither the Yamada et al. reference, U.S. Patent No. 6,231,045 or the Zanders reference, U.S. Patent No. 3,721,435 show or even remotely indicate that the trays disclosed therein can be detached and/or removed. As discussed in col. 3, of the Zanders patent, the sheet sorting compartment C of the apparatus is formed by folded sheets 13 made from cardboard or folders employed in filing cabinets and the like. The upper edge of each panel of each folder 13 is provided with a suspension rod 14, the ends of which protrude beyond the ends of the folder panel and engage in notches, that is between the teeth of the belts of one of the belt pairs 9, 10 or 11. Thus, it is readily apparent that the suspension rods 14 are part of the support assembly and these are enclosed between the guide member 11 and the guide rails 12, 15 and 16 which can never be removed to an arbitrary position of the support on the guide member, as is the case in the present invention.

In addition, when focusing on the Yamada patent, it is apparent that the reference patent does not disclose a support member which can pass from one guide member to another guide member. This feature in combination with the detachable nature of the supports of the present invention clearly distinguish the present invention from the Zanders patent or the Yamada patent, either alone or in combination.

In view of the deficiencies pointed out hereinabove in connection with the Zanders patent, the further reliance upon the Gray reference, U.S. Patent No. 5,046,641 cannot possibly suggest the present invention.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

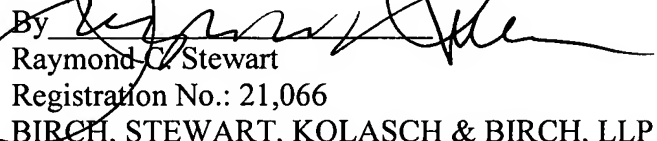
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Raymond C. Stewart
Registration No.: 21,066
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments